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IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE RAFFLE LAWS

EFFECTIVE 7/1/15

Wisconsin Act 6 which was signed into law earlier this year makes several changes to the laws that govern charitable gaming in Wisconsin. Below is a summary of the most important changes that will affect all raffle license holders. Please note that this list is not all-inclusive and you should refer to the revised statute language for further information & clarification. The link to the statute can be found here:

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/563>

Summary of Important Changes:

- The number of raffles has increased to 365 from 200 per license year.
- Class A raffle tickets can now be sold up to one year before the date of the drawing. Previously, holders of a Class A raffle license could sell raffle tickets up to 270 days before the day of a raffle drawing.
- There are no restrictions on the price of a raffle ticket. Previously, holders of a Class A raffle license could not charge more than \$500 for a raffle ticket, no more than \$10 for each month drawings occurred, and no more than \$10 for a Class B raffle ticket.
- The Office of Charitable Gaming no longer has the authority to approve alternate raffles (i.e. cow pie bingo, golf ball drops, paddle wheels, etc.) Plastic or Rubber Duck Race raffles are still permitted.
- License Holders are no longer required to display the raffle license at the drawing event but it must be available upon request in electronic or paper form (a copy of the license is acceptable.)

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- Class A Raffle License holders must make a good faith effort to award all of the prizes offered for a raffle. If the organization is unable to award the prize, it may hold the prize and use it for future fund-raising purposes. Class A license holders can still draw for a new winner if they are unable to contact the initial winner or if the winner declines to receive the prize. Class B raffle prizes must be awarded.
- Class B raffle tickets can be sold before the date of the drawing as long as the tickets are not delivered to the buyer until the date of the drawing. Previously, holders of a Class B raffle license could only sell tickets on the day of the drawing or within 24 hours before the drawing.
- The purchaser of a Class B raffle ticket must be present to win. However, any organization conducting a raffle may, according to procedures determined by the organization, allow the purchaser of a ticket not to be present at the drawing to win a prize. Also, the purchaser of a ticket may give the ticket to another person who may claim the prize on behalf of the purchaser, but only if that other person is present at the drawing.
- An annual report with revenues and expenditures must be prepared upon the license expiration but is not required to renew license.

The Office of Charitable Gaming can only request this report upon receiving a complaint regarding the conduct of a raffle. License holders will still be required to report the drawing dates, number of raffles held, and calendar raffles held during the license year.

- License holders are no longer required to send a winner's list to the Office of Charitable Gaming if the gross receipts exceed \$50,000.